

Message Text

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ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
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FM USDEL GRENADA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0073

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 3 GRENADA 0062

FOR S/PRS FOR CARTER

USOAS DEL 46

FROM USDEL OASGA

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: OAS GJ
SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE HODDING CARTER' III'S PRESS
BACKGROUND, JUNE 15, 1977, 4:00 PM

FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSCRIPT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY CARTER'S
PRESS BACKGROUND JUNE 15.

HDDING CARTER III:

THIS IS GOING TO BE A BACKGROUND BRIEFING. THE REASON IT IS
GOING TO BE ON BACKGROUND IS BECAUSE YOU DON'T QUOTE
ME ANYWAY WHEN I GO ON THE RECORD. I MAY BE ABLE TO GO A
LITTLE FURTHER WHEN I GO ON BACKGROUND. BACKGROUND, I WILL
REMIND THOSE WHO MAY NOT BE SURE, ASCRIBES TO THE SPOKESMAN
WHO YOU ARE QUOTING A ROLE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT WITHOUT
SAYING WHO OR WHAT.

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WE HAVE HAD THREE BILATERALS. ONE, A SLIGHTLY DELAYED
LUNCH AT THE HOTEL WITH THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER; ANOTHER,
A MEETING WITH THE BOLIVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE HOTEL,
AND THE FINAL ONE, A MEETING WITH THE CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTER.
I MIGHT ADD THAT BETWEEN THE LUNCH AND THE MEETING WITH THE
BOLIVIAN, THERE WAS A COURTESY CALL ON THE ACTING GOVERNOR

GENERAL OF THE ISLAND.

THE LUNCH WITH THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER LASTED FOR APPROXIMATELY AN HOUR AND TEN MINUTES. IT COVERED A NUMBER OF AREAS. IT DID NOT GET INTO THE QUESTION OF THE NUCLEAR ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND BRAZIL AT ALL. THERE WAS CLEARLY A DISCUSSION OF OUR CONCERNS AND BRAZIL'S CONCERN ON THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. IT WAS A DISCUSSION OF WAYS IN WHICH WE COULD INCREASE THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WHICH IS TYPULATED IN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH WE AGAIN FORMALLY RECONFIRMED IN THIS CONVERSATION.

Q: IS THIS THE FIRST TIME IT WAS RECONFIRMED?

A: NO, MRS. CARTER HAD DONE IT. THE SECRETARY SIMPLY WAS ONCE AGAIN MAKING A POINT REITERATING THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. I THINK THAT RATHER THAN TRYING TO GO OVER THE ENTIRE LIST, I WILL TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS IN A MINUTE ON THIS ONE. LET ME GO AHEAD TO THE OTHER TWO AND YOU CAN, WELL I'LL GO THIS WAY. DO YOU WANT TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BRAZILIANS?

Q: WAS THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSED VISIT TO BRAZIL MENTIONED?

A: YES, THAT WAS TALKED ABOUT, AND THE TIME FRAME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GENERALLY LOOKS TO BE THE END OF OCTOBER. I WOULD NOT SAY THAT IS TOTALLY TIED DOWN, BUT THERE WAS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON THE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DATE.

Q: THERE WAS A STORY WHEN MRS. CARTER WAS IN BRAZIL THAT THE SECRETARY WOULD GO THERE IN SEPTEMBER.

A: WELL I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT STORY. I ONLY KNOW ABOUT WHEN THE TRIP IS PROBABLY GOING TO BE.

Q: WILL THE SECRETARY GO TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA?

A: I DON'T KNOW. I THINK THAT THE MAIN FOCUS OF A TRIP WOULD BE TO BRAZIL, WHICH HE HAD AGREED TO WHEN HE MET WITH SILVEIRA IN PARIS DURING THE CIEC MEETING. BUT I WOULD HESITATE TO SAY YES OR NO ON THAT.

Q: WAS MRS. CARTER'S TRIP TO BRAZIL MENTIONED IN ANY WAY?

A: YES IT WAS: THERE IS A DISCUSSION OF IT. IT WAS NOT A LENGTHY ONE. IT WAS MORE TOUCHED UPON IN RELATION TO THE GENERAL PROGRESS OF OUR RELATIONS.

Q: WAS THERE UNHAPPINESS EXPRESSED BY THE BRAZILIANS ABOUT MRS. CARTER'S MEETING WITH THE U.S. MISSIONARIES?

A: NO, I WOULD NOT SAY THAT THEY EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS WITH THAT MEETING PERSE. I THINK THAT THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS SOME PRESS COVERAGE OF THE MATTERS SURROUNDING THE TWO PRIESTS MIGHT HAVE BEEN MISHANDLED.

Q: IN WHAT WAY?

A: I REALLY DON'T THINK I WANT TO GO MUCH FURTHER THAN THAT. I THINK, HOWEVER, AS HE HAS NOTED BEFORE, THAT THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAD BEEN RELEASED SUBSTANTIALY BEFORE MRS. CARTER ARRIVED; ANND THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN STEPS, IN TERMS OF INVESTIGATING AT THE STATE LEVEL WHAT HAD GONE ON IN DEALING WITH THE POLICEMEN AND IN THE COURSE OF THAT INVESTIGATION, WHO HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ARREST. HE JUST NOTED THAT.

Q: WAS AN UNDERSTANDING REACHED ON THAT?

A: I THINK THERE WAS A VERY FRANK DISCUSSION ON THIS ONE, AND I THINK THAT THE CHARACTERIZATION IN THIS CASE CARRIES WITH IT THE USUAL DIPLOMATIC FREIGHT.

Q: WHAT WAS THE GENERAL TONE?

A: IT WAS EXTREMELY AMIABLE. IT WAS A WIDE RANGING DISCUSSION IN WHICH I THINK BOTH SIDES SAID PRECISELY WHAT THEY THOUGHT WITH NO AMBIGUITY, AND MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT IT A CORDIAL LEVEEL OF CONVERSATION. IT MOVED VERY RAPIDLY.

Q: DID THE BRAZILIANS EXPRESS ANYTHING POSITIVE ABOUT MRS. CARTER'S TRIP?

A: ON, THEY FELT THAT HER EXCHANGES WITH THE PRESIDENT HAD BEEN VERY GOOD. BUT AGAIN, I WANT TO SAY THAT THIS WAS NOT REALLY A READ OUT ON MRS. CARTER'S TRIP. THERE WAS NOT AN EXCHANGE ABOUT HOW IT WENT AND THEY DID NOT SAY IT WAS WONDERFUL, OR BAD OR ANYTHING MORE.

Q: DID YOU GET A HANDLE ON THE BRAZILIAN APPRAISAL OF THE U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN?

A: I THINK IT WOULD BE FAIR TO SAY THAT I BELIEVE THEY INDICATED TODAY IN THE DIALOGUE THAT THEY THINK THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THERE PROBABLY SHOULD BE SOME RETHINKING ON THE WAY THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OPERATES, AND I THINK THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES IN TERMS OF ITS FUNCTIONING INSIDE A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THEIR OWN. THAT IS TO SAY, VISITING. THE SECRETARY, AS HE HAS DONE IN EVERYONE OF THESE BILATERALS IN WHICH THIS QUESTION CAME UP, RE-EMPHASIZED OUR WILLINGNESS FOR THE COMMISSION TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF THINGS THEY MIGHT FIND ARE WORTH INVESTIGATING.

Q: DID THE BRAZILIANS INDICATE WHETHER THEY'LL LET THE IAHRC IN?

A: I DON'T THINK THAT THERE IS ANY AGREEMENT ON THAT.

Q: WAS THERE A MEETING OF THE MINDS OF WHAT SORT OF RESOLUTION SHOULD COME OUT OF THIS MEETING?

A: I THINK THERE WAS MORE A MEETING OF THE MINDS ON THE NEED TO CONTINUE TO WORK TOGETHER IN THOSE AREAS IN WHICH WE HAVE COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS, THAN THERE WAS A MEETING OF THE MINDS AS TO PRECISELY WHAT SHOULD DEVELOP OUT OF THIS MEETING.

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ACTION PRS-01

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IT WOULD NOT BE ACCURATE TO SUGGEST THAT A GREAT DEAL OF THE CONVERSATION HAD TO DO, FOR INSTANCE, WITH

THE STRUCTURAL REFORM OF OAS.

Q: EXACTLY WHAT DID THEY DISCUSS?

A: THEY ACTUALLY TALKED ACROSS A WIDE RANGE. I MEAN IF I WERE THINKING OF THEIR DISCUSSION AS A STAGE, THEY MOVED ALL THE WAY ACROSS IT.

Q: HOW MUCH WAS DEVOTED TO HUMAN RIGHTS?

A: I WOULD SAY THAT WAS CENTER STAGE.

Q: DID THE BRAZILIANS GIVE A PREVIEW OF WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO SAY PUBLICLY?

A: I UNDERSTAND THEY SPOKE THIS MORNING BEFORE THIS MEETING.

Q: THEY SAID THIS MORNING THAT THE SECRETARY....(INAUDIBLE)

A: I THINK THAT FROM WHAT I GATHER, SINCE I DIDN'T LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HEAR THOSE PHRASES BEING USED INSIDE THE MEETING, THAT THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ONE OF THEIR CONCERNS ABOUT THE WAY THE COMMISSION OPERATES. I THINK IT WOULD BE FAIR TO SAY THAT THEY ARE NOT SURE IT OPERATES IN A WAY THAT THEY CONSIDER TO BE GALANCED; SPECIFICALLY, THAT THE SOURCES OF INFORMATION MAY, IN THEIR VIEW, BE SOMEWHAT SLANTED OR TILTED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENTS BEING INVESTIGATED.

1: DID MR. VANCE MAKE ANY EFFORT IN THESE BILATERALS HE HAS HAD, TO HEAD OFF WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE COUNTER OFFENSIVE NOW BY THE MILITARY REGIMES TO LINK TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOME KIND OF VERY COMPLEX RESOLUTION SO GENERAL IT WOULD BE MEANINGLESS?

IS HE GOING TO TRY TO HEAD THIS OFF, AND WHAT IS HE DOING ABOUT IT?

A: NO, THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION ABOUT THE LINKAGE THAT HAS BEEN RAISED BY SEVERAL OF THE COUNTRIES HERE. BETWEEN THE TWO, IT IS - LINKAGE, I MIGHT ADD, THAT WAS ALSO ESTABLISHED BY THE COSTA RICAN'S SPEECH THIS MORNING; HE TOOK NOTE OF THE FACT THAT TERRORISM WAS A MAJOR PROBLEM, BUT THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT THAT IN NO WAY SHOULD IT BE USED AS AN EXCUSE TO ENGAGE IN SIMILAR METHODS ON THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL. IN ANY CASE, TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS SPECIFICALLY, NO, THERE WASN'T SOME KIND OF VANCE INITIATIVE AIMED AT BREAKING UP THE LINKAGE. THERE WAS SIMPLY A VANCE REITERATION OF THE POINTS WE HAVE MADE.

Q: WOULD A RESOLUTION THAT CONTAINED THIS LINKAGE BE
CONSIDERED BY THE UNITED STATES TO BE A DEFEAT?

A: I DON'T THINK I CAN COMMENT ON THAT BECAUSE I DON'T
THINK WE HAVE COME TO THAT POINT OF DRAWING A POSITION ON
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THAT QUESTION. I WOULD BE TAKING US ALL WAY AFIELD IF I TRIED.

Q: WAS THERE ANY DISCUSSION AT ALL OF ECONOMIC OR MILITARY
AID TO BRAZIL?

A: NO DISCUSSION OF MILITARY AID, EXCEPT A RATHER
HUMEROUS REFERENCE: THAT IT WAS INTERESTING THAT THE HOUSE
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE HAD CUT OFF THAT WHICH HAD ALREADY
BEEN REJECTED. AND THAT WAS ABOUT IT.

Q: NO DISCUSSION AT ALL?

A: WELL LET ME SEE HOW CATEGORICALLY I CAN
BE. I DON'T RECALL ANY REFERENCE TO IT AT ALL.

Q: YOU SAID THEY DIDN'T GO INTO THE GERMAN NUCLEAR DEAL. NOT
AT ALL?

A: LET ME BACK UP A MINUTE. THERE WAS A DISCUSSION
SIMPLY OF THE NEED TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSION. ON THE WHOLE
NUCLEAR MATTER, I MEAN THAT WAS, IF THAT EVEN
DESERVES A SUB-CLAUSE IN A LONG SENTENCE, IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH.

Q: EARLIER YOU SAID THAT THEY WERE UNHAPPY WITH THE PRESS
TREATMENT OF ROSALYNN'S.....

A: IT WAS ACTUALLY MORE OF A QUESTION OF TREATMENT OF THE
ARREST ITSELF AND THE SUBSEQUENT EVENTS. THEIR FEELING IS
THE ARREST AND INCARCERATION TOOK CENTER STAGE, AND THE
REACTION TO IT OFFICIALLY SOMEHOW GOT LOST IN THE TRANSLATION.

Q: THIS MORNING THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTER SPOKE OF THE
SENSATIONALISM SURROUNDING HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH SEEMS TO BE
PRESENT IN THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. WHAT WOULD HE BE REFERRING TO?

A: I THINK YOU WOULD HAVE TO ASK HIM.
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Q: DID THE BRAZILIANS SPEAK ABOUT TERRORISM AND THEIR CONCERN ABOUT GROWING US-CUBA N LINKS?

A: NO, AS A MATTER OF FACT THD CUBAN QUESTION, INsofar AS THERE WAS A REFERENCE TO IT THERE, WAS A REFERENCE THAT "WE UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE DOING." AS FOR TERRORISM, THERE WAS A RATHER CAREFUL NOTATION THAT TERRORISM SIMPLY WASN'T A FACTOR OR A PROBLEM IN BRAZIL.

Q: WHAT ABOUT BOLIVIA?

A: BOLIVIA WAS LARGELY TAKEN UP WITH THEIR CONCERNS WITH THE GENERAL SITUATION IN THAT REGION OF SOUTH AMERICA, AND I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GO ANY FURTHER THAN THAT. THE SECRETARY, HOWEVER, DID TAKE NOTE OF AND COMMEND BOLIVIA FOR ITS PROGRESS IN THE FORM OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN CERTAIN AREAS. THE DISCUSSION BASICALLY CENTERED ABOUT EVENTS IN THAT AREA.

Q: HOW ABOUT U.S. PRISONERS IN BOLIVIA?

A: THAT SUBJECT DID COME UP, AND THERE WAS AN APPRECIATION ON THE BOLIVIAN PART OF OUR CONCERN ABOUT IT, A REITERATION OF THEIR POINT THAT, LIKE US, THEY HAVE A JUDICIAL SYSTEM WHICH IS NOT IMMEDIATELY RESPONSIVE TO OTHER BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE PROCESSES HAVE TO CONTINUE. THEY HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE CONCERN ABOUT THE 30 OR 40 PRISIONERS OF OURS WHO ARE THERE, AND THEY SIMPLY FEEL THAT THEY ARE DOING WHAT THEY CAN TO EXPEDITE THE DISPOSITION OF THOSE CASES.

Q: WHEN YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THEIR CONCERNS IN THE REGION, WAS THE CHILE-PERU THINK DISCUSSED?

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A: WELL I REALLY THINK I WILL STOP THERE. YOU ALL ARE VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE SITUATION IN THAT REGION, AND I THINK YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH THEIR POSITION ON THE GENERAL DIPLOMATIC MILITARY SITUATION IN THAT AREA. I THINK THAT THERE WAS NOTHING NEW SAID ON THE SUBJECT, BUT A GREAT DEAL WAS SAID ON THE SUBJECT.

A: CHILE: IT WAS ENTIRELY ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE ENTIRE CONVERSATION WAS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. AND THERE I CAN SIMPLY SAY THAT THE POSITION THAT CHILE ENUNCIATED IN ITS OPENNING STATEMENT YESTERDAY WAS REITERATED IN SOMEWHAT MORE DETAIL, BUT WITHOUT MUCH VARIATION TODAY. THAT THE QUESTION OF TERRORISM IS THE OVERWHELMING FACT, AS CHILE SEES IT, WAS ESTABLISHED AGAIN.. CONCERN ABOUT OUR APPARENT LACK OF UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THIS PROBLEM WAS EXPRESSED, AND THERE WAS A VERY UNAMBIGUOUS STATEMENT OF BOTH POSITIONS: OF THE US GOVERNMENT AND THE

CHILEAN.

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Q: DID THEY SAY ANYTHING ABOUT MR. VANCE'S HAVING RECEIVED EDUARDO
FREI?

A: TO THE BEST OF MY RECOLLECTION, THAT DID NOT COME UP.
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I MIGHT SPEAK TO THAT AGAIN.
THERE HAS NEVER BEEN AN OFFICIAL EXPRESSION OF CONCERN ABOUT THAT.

Q: HOW WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE THE DIFFERENCE OF APPROACH BETWEEN
CHILE AND THE AMERICANS ON HUMAN RIGHTS?

A: I THINK THEY'RE AS FAR APART AS THE TWO OPENING STATEMENTS
YESTERDAY..

Q: HOW ABOUT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND BRAZIL?

A: WELL NO W I AM REALLY NOT GOING TO DO THIS, I AM
NOT GOING TO SET UP THAT GRAPH FOR YOU. THAT IS JUST ANOTHER
FORM OF PLUSES AND MINUSES. I AM NOT GOING TO DO THAT. IT WAS A
DIFFERENT KIND OF DISCUSSION.

Q: WHAT ABOUT COMMUNISM?
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A: WELL THEY SEE THAT AS THE ROOT.

Q: WOULD YOU CHARACTERIZE THE MOOD OF THE MEETING AS DIFFICULT?

A: IT WAS NOT DIFFICULT, IT WAS CORRECT BUT THAT DOES NOT CARRY WITH IT THE CONOTATION OF UNPLEASANT. IT WAS SIMPLY AN EXPOSITION OF VIEWS WHICH DID NOT GET MUCH BEYOND THE OLD FORMAL PRESENTATION.

Q: WERE THERE ANY IMPLICIT THREATS MADE BY EITHER SIDE?

A: I NEVER IN ANY OF THE MEETINGS EVER HEARD ANY SUGGESTION OF "IF YOU DO THIS, WE WILL DO THAT," OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

Q: IN THE MEETING WAS THERE ANY ATTEMPT TO LINK ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION WITH RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS?

A: THERE WAS A COMPLAINT ABOUT OUR HAVING ELIMINATED AID, ON OUR PART THERE WASN'T ANY LINKAGE MADE AT ALL. I MEAN THERE WAS NOT ANY REITIREATION OF THIS THEME. I THINK THAT THERE WAS A REITERATION OF THE THEME THAT DETENTE HAD LEFT AN AWFUL LOT OF PEOPLE NAKED IN THE FACE OF NEW SOVIET AGRESSION.

Q: DID MR. VANCE DISCUSS THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, MAINLY IN TERMS OF STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION AND GIVING ACCESS TO IT, OR DID HE SPECIFICALLY ASK SOME GESTURE OF GOOD WILL SUCH AS THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS OR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THEM?

A: I THINK THAT THERE WAS A GOOD BIT OF THE LATTER.

Q: WAS THERE ANY INDICATION THAT THEY MIGHT DO SOMETHING?
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A: THEY INDICATED DIFFICULTIES IN TRYING TO DO SOME OF IT AND A WILLINGNESS TO TRY SOME OF IT.

Q: HOW LONG WAS THE MEETING?

A: FORTH MINUTES.

Q: DID THE CHILEANS TRY TO JUSTIFY THEMSELVES IN THE SENSE THAT, "WE'RE DOING BETTER?"

A. THAT'S RIGHT, IT WASN'T ALL UP FRONT, TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT. THERE WAS THE INDICATION THAT, "LOOK, WE

ARE MOVING SOME." BUT, AGAIN, I WOULDN'T WANT TO
GO TOO FAR WITH THAT ONE.

Q: DID THE BRAZILIANS AND CHILEANS ACCUSE US OF
MEDDLING IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS?

A: I DON'T THINK THERE WAS EVER ANY DIRECT REFERENCE
ALONG THOSE LINES. THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME THAT COULD
BE TAKEN AS AN OBLIQUE NOTION. BUT THERE WAS NOBODY
SAYING "QUIT PLAYING LONE RANGER" OR "QUIT INTERFERRING IN
OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS".

Q: WAS AFRICA DISCUSSED AT ALL?

A: YES IN PASSING, AS IN "WHEN OUR WORKING GROUPS
ARE WORKING MAYBE WE OUGHT TO WORK TOGETHER, EXCHANGE SOME
PAPERS."
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